(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Activities of Vishwayatan Yogashram and Aparna Studies Gurgaon

890 SHRI SUKOMAL SEN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that Vishwayatan Yogashram and Aparna Studies are indulging in activities which attract FERA provisions; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) No violation of the provisions of FERA, 1973 by Vishwayatan Yogashram and Aparna Studies has come to the notice of the Government

(b) Does not arise

Trade Contracts with GDR

891. SHRI G G SWELL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) what is the volume of trade contracts with the German Democratic Republic and its break-up,

(b) whether the term of transaction is in rupees, and

(c) what is the status of those contracts consequent on the unification of Germany?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL) (a) As the contracts entered into between exporters in India and importers in GDR are not required to be registered with the Government, the information about the volume of trade contracts with the German Democratic Republic and its break up is not maintained

(b) and (c) Consequent upon the unification of the two Germanies, it was decided that with effect from 28th September, 1990 in addition to the Rupee payment tract, bilateral trade transactions would be permitted in any freely convertible currency upto 31st December, 1990, notwithstanding the validity of the Rupee Payment arrangement upto 31st December, 1990 It was also agreed that transactions in any freely convertible currency would be permitted for utilising additional trading possibility over and above the trade plan for 1990 However, trade in freely convertible currency in respect of items figuring in the Trade Plan could be permitted in specific cases by mutual agreement Arrangements for liquidation of rupee balances and other transitional arrangements are being negotiated with the Government of United Germany

Relaxation of rules relating to deep sea fishing policy

892 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have relaxed the rules pertaining to deep sea fishing policy as reported in the Economic Times of 8th December, 1990 and if so, the details thereof,

(b) whether it is a fact that this step will increase exports and thus further deprive weaker sections of coastal population of this essential nutrition in their diets,

(c) whether this would also reduce catch in the coastal areas and thus reduce the income of poor fishermen, and

(d) whether this policy will also involve drain of foreign exchange not commensurate with earnings and also lead to further foreign debts?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) (a) Some broad guidelines for joint ventures in deep sea fishing, test fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and leasing foreign fishing vessels have been considered for the development of deep sea fishing and to promote export of marine products

(b) and (c) Deep sea fishing vessels are operated beyond the area of operation of small fishermen i.e. beyond the territorial waters. Therefore, operation of deep sea fishing vessels should not affect the small fishermen

(d) No, Sir.

Non payment of gratuity to a retired Head clerk of State Bank of Indore, Chandni Chowk Branch, Delhi

893 SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3548 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th September, 1990 and state

(a) whether it is a fact that Gratuity amount of Rs 24,000 has not yet been released to the retired Head Clerk of State Bank of Indore, Chandni Chowk Branch, Delhi, if so, the reasons therefor,

(b) how many letters Government have received from Members of Parliament regarding payment of Provident Fund and Gratuity amount to him during this year, and

(c) what action has been taken thereon till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the bank and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible

Overdues of Commercial Banks from the Agricultural Sector

894 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether in the agricultural sector the overdues of commercial banks, including the regional, rural and co-operative banks have reached a staggering level of 43 per cent of the demand,

(b) if so, what were the total overdues as on June, 1988,

(c) to what extent it has been further increased upto 1990,

(d) to what extent the overdues in the cooperatives have been less in comparison to commercial banks;

(e) what are the reasons therefor and

(f) what steps are being taken to recover the dues from the farm sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) For the year ending June, 1988, the per centage of overdues to demand in case of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACs) was 40 65 per cent (latest data available) For the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), this figure was 51 11 per cent and for Public Sector Banks, the same was 43 9 per cent

(b) The total overdues as on June 30, 1988 were Rs 2132 crores for Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS), Rs 630 crores for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Rs 2207 crores for Public Sector Banks